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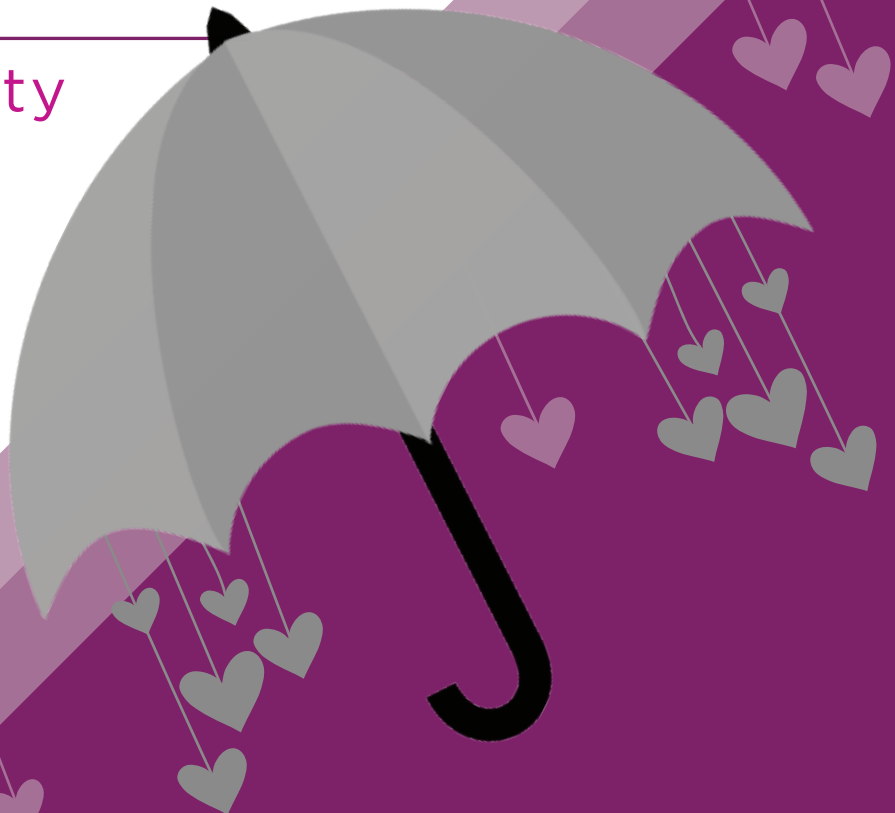
NORTH EAST

COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

to the Community

*Be an umbrella
on a rainy day
& a rainbow of hope
for tomorrow.*



necommunityfoundation.org



PROPERTY PURCHASED ALONG GIBSON PARK

In October 2023, North East Community Foundation announced its purchase of property along Gibson Park to be used as the first ever offices of the foundation.

The 8-10 Gibson Street property was identified as a perfect fit for our initiative to have a physical presence in North East, said Kelly Montefiori, chair of the NECF building committee.

"We were thrilled to purchase the historic property," she added, explaining once the prior tenants moved out in late spring 2024, NECF board members began meeting with prospective tenants and hired Weber Murphy Fox to assist in preliminary planning and best use scenarios.

In September 2024, the building committee made a presentation at the NECF board meeting with concept designs and projected expenses for the 8-10 Gibson Street property.

"NECF hopes the space will become a hub for other non-profits to meet and/or have office space for the primary purpose of making North East a better place to live," Montefiori said.

Upon approval of the preliminary plans, the next phase will include fundraising for the much needed renovations of the property and selection of design architects and contractors.

Full occupancy is expected in fall of 2025.

DID YOU KNOW?

**NORTH
EAST
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
PROVIDES ITS OWN MATCH
TO LOCAL NON-PROFITS
DURING ERIE GIVES?

THE NORTH EAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



This is on top of funds donated by residents on Aug. 13 and matched by The Erie Community Foundation.

This year NECF was proud to contribute an additional \$30,000 in matching funds to support the mission of 20 local organizations that work to make life better for the people of North East.

DONATE

Mail a gift of any amount to:

**The North East
Community Foundation**
P.O. Box 327
North East, PA 16428.

START A FUND


Funds can be established in any amount.

Call Melissa Fisher at 814.882.5594 to learn more.

501(c)(3) organizations can request a grant at any time.

The North East Community Foundation board of directors recently described what we do, the importance of philanthropy and its impact on our community.

WE TRANSFORM



“It’s easy to say the North East Community Foundation has become a go-to organization for transformational opportunities, a key stakeholder that improves the quality of life in the North East.

- Billy Lewis, board chairman

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WE SERVE



Thank you for your dedication and countless years of service to the North East Community Foundation

- Robert J. Jeffery, board treasurer (retired)

WE COLLABORATE



“NECF provides area nonprofits with the means to meet their goals and missions,” said Vern Frye, vice chairman and long-time board member. “Philanthropy is important to help ensure North East’s future and wellbeing for the next generation.

- Vern Frye, vice chairman

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WE CARE



“Philanthropy: it’s about making life better, for everyone,” said Chris Miller, a 20-year member of the board. “It is an opportunity where anyone can participate, including those outside the community. It’s about caring enough to give of oneself to the benefit of others.

- Chris Miller, board member

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WE GIVE



“Philanthropy provides an opportunity for people to offer resources that can improve the lives of others,” said Deb Phillips, NECF board secretary, who has witnessed enormous generosity from donors and exceptional dedication from volunteers who offer their time and talents to use these resources to help, to encourage, and to gather together.

- Deb Phillips, board secretary

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WE LISTEN & LEARN




“I am proud to serve with folks who truly take the time to learn about the grant requests we receive, the organizations represented and those in need who might be served by grant funding,

- Dan Adamus, grant making and government affairs committees co-chairs

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WE CREATE HOPE



“Philanthropy is important because it creates hope where apathy or hopelessness once were,” said Kelly Montefiori, who joined the board in 2022. “It is life-giving. Perpetuating the community foundation allows donors to be part of this life-giving, hope creation process. It is good for our community and its residents, but it is also very good for the donor.

- Kelly Montefiori, board member

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WE HONOR OTHERS




“NECF was a great choice to establish the James R. Meehl Memorial Scholarship for North East students,” said Dave Meehl, who has served on the board for 5+ years. “Many individuals had done it before me, and I felt it was a great fit. It is great to shake the hands of the recipients and to talk to them afterwards.

- Dave Meehl, board member

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WE CONTRIBUTE TO DREAMS



“Although I am not a native North Easter, I have loved this community since I first set foot in it and I am vested in seeing that it continues as a vibrant and thriving collective,” said Kathleen Johnson, who joined the board in 2023. “Being a part of NECF is a wonderful way to contribute to my dreams for our community and, most importantly, the people who live here.

- Kathleen Johnson, board member

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WE CREATE MOMENTUM



“The NECF continues to attract more and more highly qualified and enthusiastic board members and donors, increasing the momentum for us to serve more of our residents,” said James Gorzynski, who has been a board member for 20+ years. “Our grants have touched hundreds, if not thousands of our residents and served to improve overall quality of life in the community.

- James Gorzynski, board member

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WE ARE THE FUTURE



“Donors find a partner for their funds that not only safely protects their investments, but also leaves a legacy for generations right in their hometown,

- Jennifer Smith, board member

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The North East Community Foundation is many things, but we couldn’t do any of them without YOU. Thank you to all who made a contribution or established a new fund in 2023.

Sincerely, Billy Lewis



Vern Frye to receive Lake & Smith Award

This year's Lake & Smith award will be presented to Vern Frye for his many years of service to the North East Community.

A life-long resident of North East, Vern began volunteering at age 20 with the North East Jaycees. It was the start of more than 40 years of service with a variety of volunteer boards and elected or appointed government offices including the North East Township Water and Sewer Authority, Erie County Manufactured Housing Association and North East Township Supervisors.

Vern currently serves as vice president of Enjoy North East (formerly North East Chamber of Commerce), member of the North East Township Planning Commission, vice chair of the North East Community Foundation (board member for many years), member of the North East Cemetery Board of Incorporators (20+ years), and member of the McCord Memorial Library Board of Directors (5+ years). An inaugural member of Downtown North East, he recently retired from that board after serving from 2008 to early 2024.

Vern and his wife Sara have been married for 46 years. Together they've owned and operated multiple local businesses for more than 40 years.

They are also the proud parents of Jeremy, Jonathan and Jeana - all local residents - and the grandparents of 8.

2023

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

2023, with the help of donors, NECF was able to fund nearly \$500,000 in grants, scholarships, specified gifts and Erie Gives matches to the following:



More than \$120,000 to education

Supporting libraries and schools, providing scholarships and funds for summer camp experiences in the arts and nature. Including:

- ▶ \$9,600 to Boy Scout and Girl Scouts
- ▶ \$13,500 to The Door Student Services
- ▶ \$900 to 4 NINE Place to support Little Picker program
- ▶ \$9,965.60 to McCord Memorial Library
- ▶ \$6,050 to Kids Art Club and Missoula Summer Theatre Camp
- ▶ \$1,300 to North East School District for vape education program
- ▶ \$70,801.81 to scholarships



4 N.I.N.E. Place
Boy Scout Troop #57
Boy Scout Troop #82
Carlow University
Community Nursing Serv
of North East
Crescent Hose Co.
Cub Scout Pack #57
Door Student Services, In
Downtown North East, In
Episcopal Church of the
Erie Philharmonic

More to be to be needs

*Includi
essenti
firefigh
program*

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- ▶ \$10,
- ▶ \$10, Bac
- ▶ \$26 for m
- ▶ \$7,0 for m

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Holy Cross

*First Baptist Church of North East
First Presbyterian Church of North East
Fuller Hose Company
Gannon University
Indiana University of PA
Lake Shore Railway Historical Society Inc.
Lakeview Church Students' Ministries
Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center
Louisiana State University
McCord Memorial Library
Mercyhurst University
North East Arts Council*

*North East Education Foundation
North East Food Pantry
North East Historical Society
North East in Bloom
North East Little League
North East School District Foundation
North East School Scholarship Fund
New Castle School of Trades
Oklahoma State University
Orchard Beach Assembly
Park United Methodist Church
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

*Pennsylvania State University
PennWest Edinboro
Project Love, Inc.
Roberts Wesleyan College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Slippery Rock University
St. Gregory School
Table of Grace Church
United Neighborhood Facilities
Health Care Corporation
University of Mount Union
Washington and Jefferson College*

More than \$123,000
to enrich basic health, safety and welfare
of our community
*Offering food, clothing, basic hygiene and other
services; nursing and hospice care; police,
firefighters and first responders and these
programs:*

- \$10,000 to 4 NINE Place for Group Cares home care program for seniors
- \$10,000 to 4 NINE Place for EITC tax program
- \$5,500 to North East Education Foundation for Backpack Program for hungry families
- \$5,404 to North East Police Department for new riot gear
- \$10,000 to Project Love for Christmas gifts for needy children

More than \$211,000
to enrich our community and
preserve our unique history and
downtown
Offering arts and culture and family fun including:

- ▶ \$30,000 to Erie Philharmonic for 3 summer concerts in Gibson Park
- ▶ \$4,250 for entertainment at Picnic in the Park
- ▶ \$15,500 to provide fireworks during July 4 and TREEmendous Night of Lights holiday celebrations
- ▶ \$7,280 to North East Historical Society toward a renovation to the chapel at North East Cemetery
- ▶ \$9,500 to North East Historical Society for historical plaques and postcard murals
- ▶ \$250 to North East in Bloom for flowers and new planters





[necommunityfoundation](http://necommunityfoundation.org)

4 N.I.N.E. Place
Bridget & Tim Allburn
Amy & Brad Allen
Nancy & Gareth J. Anderson
Melissa Aul
Charlene S. Baird
Sandy Bauer
James Baur
Be A Dog Golf Tournament
Bella Salon & Day Spa, Inc.
James Bemis
Marilyn S Bendig
Janet C. Bergkessel &
Catherine A. Steger
Lisa Bergquist
William Bowers
David Bradford
Edith Brower
Susan & Jim Butler
Kathy & Dennis Cantoni
Emma Sue Cherico
Kim Collarile
Ethelynn & Craig Cunningham
William R. Cunningham
Lori & Steve M. Dabrow
Cara DeVore
Marie & Alan Dingfelder
Joann & Dominic DiPillo
Downtown North East, Inc.
Erie Insurance Group Charitable
Giving Committee
Sonia & Clayton J. Fails
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Melissa & Roy Fisher
Kristin Francis
Mary Ann Frontino
Sara & Vernon Frye
Fuller Hose Company
Patricia & Robert L. Garfield
Mark Geraci
Nancy Goodman
James Gorzynski
George D. Gourgoutis
Haines Printing Co.
Sue Hammond

Danielle & Corey Hansen
Beth & Michael Hansen
Linda Heun
Mary Jean & Kenneth Hitz
Elsie & Ronald Holl
Susan & James Hughes
Kathy & Robert Jeffery
Kathleen & Philip Johnson
Ann & Dan Keeley
Diane Kelly
Charlene Kerr
Joseph L. Keddie
Knox, McLaughlin, Gornall &
Sennett, PC

Thomas Mack
Virginia Madonia
Charlotte Manison
Anna & Hugh McCartney
McCord Memorial Library
McCormick Taylor, Inc.
Jennifer & Thomas McClure
David W. Meehl
Mary Ellen & Ken Mellett
Jean Meltaus
Cynthia & Gary E. Miller
Linda & Christopher R. Miller
Kelly & Tony Montefiori
Russell B. Mosier III

Ellen Otto
Mary Helen & John Page
Tyhise & Dean Parmer
Bruce A. Perdue
Ethan Redrup
Carol J. Reese
Sherri & Brent Roggie
Carol & Rick Rouse
Deborah Phillips & Jack Russell
Nancy Schneider
Patricia & Michael P.
Schwabebauer
Kathy & Roger Schultz
Eileen & Michael A. Scutella
Gerami Seitzman
Skunk & Goat Tavern
Kris & David C. Slaughter
Jennifer & Doug Smith
Sandra H. Snowe
Jean & Robert Stetson
Stetson Brothers Ace Hardware
Straw Hat, LLC
Kristen Streeper
T. Rowe Price Program for
Charitable Giving
TIA Book Cellar, LLC
Kathleen Tolentino
Carl Triana
Renee Triana
Trolley Line Vineyards, LTD
United Way of Erie County
Karen & Charles Wagner
Bev & Al Walz
Robin & Tim Ward
Pamela & William Whitmore
Lynda Williams
Judith Wilson
Tyler Wilson
Carol Wood
Amy VanTassell
Barb & Paul Zorzie

WE ARE

**GRATEFUL
TO THOSE
WHO MADE
CONTRIBUTIONS
OR ESTABLISHED A
NEW FUND IN 2023**

Law Building Company
Barbara Leonard
Jean H. Lewis
Beth & William G. Lewis
Loyal Order of the Moose
- North East
Diane & Fred Lucore
Colleen & August E. Maas
Lisa Maas

Carol & Robert Mulvin
Anne Narby
William Neil
Joellen Nelson
North East Education Foundation
North East in Bloom
Linda O' Marra
Darlene & Ed Orschek